



AFRICAN AMERICAN
MUSEUM

Omowale

A Son Returns

This exhibit features the work of Mark Lawrence McPhail, Dean of the College of Arts and Communication at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater.. McPhail's work explores the land, life, and people of Uganda and Tanzania, where he has worked with the United Nations and the Ugandan American Partnership Organization during the past four years.


**Omawale:
A Son Returns**



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African-American Museum to Feature Presentation by Omowale Exhibit Creator

👤 Written By: [Staff Writer](#) 🕒 11-1-2010 📁 Categorized in: [Community](#), [Culture/History](#)

DALLAS– Author, dean and mentor are just a few hats this highly gifted photographic artist/educator wears on a daily basis. Two decades ago, Dr. Mark Lawrence McPhail became fascinated with studying African culture, and in 2008 he had an experience that inspired him to create Omowale, a poignant photographic exhibit which explores the land, life and people of Uganda and Tanzania.

The African American Museum will feature a reception and presentation by Dr. McPhail on Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. Working with the United Nations (UN) in 2008, McPhail traveled through the continent in which he had become enamored by while working on his doctorate in communication and race relations at the University of Massachusetts.

At the time, he published an essay in a campus newspaper entitled, “Why Study about Africa.” When the article was published, he had actually never visited Africa but had become intrigued by research regarding African art, communication and culture.

Two decades later, he encountered firsthand what had piqued his interest for so many years when he traveled to Africa. In 2008, McPhail journeyed to Arusha, Tanzania where he served as an expert witness for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.





























Here's to the men who do an
honest hard day's work...



We salute you

For the men who do an honest hard day's work...















People, life, land: Photos of Africa on display at UW-Whitewater's Crossman Gallery

June 30, 2011

Mark McPhail, dean of the College of Arts and Communication, will be exhibiting his photographs in the Crossman Gallery from June 27 - July 14, open weekdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The photographs came about through his travels and experiences in Africa in 2008. The title of the exhibit is, "Omowale: A Son Returns."

McPhail wrote the following artist statement:

Years ago, while working on my doctorate in communication and race relations, I published an essay in a campus newspaper titled "Why Study About Africa." I had, at that time, never visited the continent, but had developed a strong research interest in African art, communication, and culture. Over two decades later that interest led me to two opportunities that inspired this exhibit. In 2008 I traveled to Arusha, Tanzania to serve as an expert witness for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The following year, I traveled to Kampala Uganda as a board member for the Uganda American Partnership Organization, an NGO established to create opportunities for Ugandans and Americans to work together toward economic empowerment and spiritual growth. What began as an intellectual interest evolved into an opportunity for creative expression and cultural understanding that I hope is expressed in these images. They reveal my encounter with the people, the life, and the land of my ancestors. The name of the exhibit comes from the Yoruba language: "Omowale" means "a son who has returned home." The inspiration comes from my encounter with one of the security personnel with the United Nations. Driving me to the airport after my time in Tanzania, he asked me if I had been to African before. "This is my first time," I replied. "Well, then," he responded. "It has taken you a long time to come home."

